

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. ON OCTOBER 11, AFGHANISTAN'S OFFICIAL BAKSTAR NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT USAID HAD REIMBURSED 75 PERCENT OF THE COST OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (RDD) PROJECTS IN NANGAHAR, NIMROX, AND GUAZNI PROVINCES. THE AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENTS WAS 171,236 DOLLARS.

2. ON OCTOBER 15, THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AFGHAN MEDIA WIDELY PUBLICIZED A 25,221-DOLLAR USAID GRANT FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S HEADWAY PROJECT ON THE SOKHTA BAYHSHI STREAM IN THE DEF SABX WOLKSWALI OF KABULE PROVINCE. THE KAKTAR NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT THE PAYMENT WAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH A "PREVIOUS AGREEMENT," BUT UNDERSTANDABLE DID NOT MENTION THE RECENT TERMINATION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. BAKHTAR CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE USAID ASSISTANCE WAS "ACCEPTED WITH THANKS."

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STATZ PLS PLOT TO BEAD

E.O. 12865: DDE 12-17-85 (PLATIN, BRUCK A.) CR-M

1. (C) ON OCTOBER 11, AFGHANISTAN'S OFFICIAL BAYTER NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT USAID WAS FINANCING 75 PERCENT OF THE COST OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (RDP) PROJECTS IN NINGGAR, KANDUZ, AND OTHER PROVINCES. THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE WAS \$11.255 MILLION.

2. (C) ON OCTOBER 12, THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AFGHAN MEDIA WITNESS PUBLISHED A 20,000-WORD ROAD MAP FOR THE ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE ROAD MAP WAS ON THE SOVIET BAYTER NEWS AGENCY IN THE DUT EAST WIDE WIDE OF KANDUZ PROVINCE. THE BAYTER NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT THE BAYTER WAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH A "PREVIOUS AGREEMENT," BUT UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT MENTION THE RECENT TERMINATION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. BAYTER CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE USAID ASSISTANCE WAS "ACCEPTED WITH THANKS."

3. (C) COMMENT: SINCE THE 1978 REVOLUTION, THE CHALIS HAVE CHARACTERISTICALLY MADE LITTLE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE DOWNPLAYING OF OUR AID ROLE WAS RELATED TO A GENERAL STRATEGY OF REDUCING THE WIDESPREAD POPULARITY OF AMERICAN AMONG THE AFGHAN PEOPLE.

4. (C) THESE RECENTLY LISTED ANNOUNCEMENTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO ILLUSTRATE TO THE AFGHAN POPULATION THAT PRESIDENT KAFIZULLAH AIN'S NEW GOVERNMENT IS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. IT IS PROBABLY ALSO RELATED TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY CHALIS OFFICIALS TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS ABOUT THE CHALIS HOPES FOR AN EVENTUAL RESUMPTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY.

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